

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. ***(Currently Amended)*** A method of removing a selected metal-ion from a solution, comprising the steps of;

providing a container for holding a liquid, said container comprising an internal surface having a metal-ion sequestering agent immobilized in at least a portion of said internal surface for removing a designated metal-ion from said liquid, wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent comprises derivatized nanoparticles comprising inorganic nanoparticles having an attached metal-ion sequestrant, wherein said inorganic nanoparticles have an average particle size of less than 200 nm and the derivatized nanoparticles have a stability constant greater than 10^{10} with iron (III), and wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent is immobilized in a polymeric layer, the polymeric layer contacts said liquid, and the polymeric layer is permeable to water;

filling said container with said liquid in an open environment;

closing said container with said liquid contained therein;

said metal-ion sequestering agent removing said designated metal-ion from said liquid; and

shipping said container for use of said liquid without any further processing of said container containing said liquid.

2. ***(Canceled)***

3. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method according to claim 1 wherein said container comprises a bottle and cap assembly.

4. ***(Original)*** A method according to claim 3 wherein said bottle is made of a plastic material.

5. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method according to claim 3 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent is provided on the entire internal surface of said bottle.

6. ***(Original)*** A method according to claim 3 wherein said bottle is made of a material that includes said metal-ion sequestering agent.

7. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method according to claim 3 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent is provided on the internal surface of said cap.

8. ***(Original)*** A method according to claim 1 wherein said liquid has a pH equal to or greater than about 3.

9. ***(Original)*** A method according to claim 1 wherein said liquid has a pH equal to or greater than about 4.

10. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method according to claim 1 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent has a stability constant greater than 10^{10} with iron (III).

11. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method according to claim 1 wherein said sequestering agent has a high-affinity for biologically important metal-ions Mn, Zn, Cu and Fe.

12. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method according to claim 1 wherein said sequestering agent has a high-selectivity for biologically important metal-ions Mn, Zn, Cu and Fe.

13. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method according to claim 1 wherein said sequestering agent has a high-selectivity for certain metal-ions but a low-affinity for at least one other ion.

14. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method according to claim 13 wherein said certain metal-ions comprises Mn, Zn, Cu and Fe and said other at least one ion comprises calcium.

15. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method according to claim 1 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent has a stability constant greater than 10^{20} with iron (III).

16. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method according to claim 1 wherein said metal-ion sequestering agent has a stability constant greater than 10^{30} with iron (III).

17. - 37. ***(Canceled)***

38. ***(Previously Presented)*** A method according to claim 1, wherein said container further comprises a barrier layer between the metal-ion sequestering agent and the liquid for permitting water to pass therethrough and for blocking microorganisms from passing therethrough.

39. - 40. ***(Canceled)***